

the crowd. His name is James Madison. And he is presenting the Virginia Plan to his fellow delegates. They will soon refer to the plan as a "political masterstroke," and in the next 5 months, it will serve as the foundation for our Constitution. By 1789, all the states had ratified and approved this new form of government. This unusual document was the first written, national constitutional since ancient times. It was also the first to set up what was called the federal system. Under this system, sovereign power comes from the people, for the good of the people.

The Founders attempted to create a form of government that would be stable, but would also allow for change. You see, in a sense, the Founding Fathers were time travelers too; they were looking to the future, planning ahead, and forming a basic framework to endure for all time. It is a document written for "we the people" and that means that "we the people" have a job to do!

Fast forward to April 1999. An issue of the USA Today Newsview, states that one of the first things that come to mind when Americans are asked what they think about the United States and its government is "freedom." Yet according to current public opinion research fewer than 15% of Americans can name the freedom of the press as one of the rights protected under the First Amendment. And little more than half of Americans know that there are three forms of government. You see, time travelers, with freedom also comes responsibility—the responsibility to understand and defend the Constitution.

James Madison once said, "The people who are the authors of this blessing must also be guardians." Today more than ever before we witness people and organizations testing the bounds of their Constitutional rights. From tabloids that slander high profile figures, to hate groups who use their misunderstanding of free to infringe upon other's inalienable rights, we are constantly called upon to defend and uphold our constitution. Clearly, these types of situations challenge our support and understanding of the constitution, but in the end, they serve only to reinforce our Founding Fathers' cry for responsible citizenry. As such, we must be able to use our privileges responsibly. In the words of Benjamin Franklin, "we have a Republic, only if we can keep it!"

And now, as we make our way back to the 21st century, I will remind you that this flight is interactive—meaning it is not enough to simply understand our constitution and to use our rights responsibly. Clearly, this travel back in time has taught us that our duties as citizens also carry the obligation to participate in our government.

Long after our Founding Fathers penned the last words of the Constitution, the amendment process ensured their continued involvement. You will see what I mean, by looking out the windows on the right side of the aircraft: here we see that The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in 1791. In 1865 the 13th amendment abolished slavery and in 1868 the 14th amendment outlined the rights of all citizens. Meeting the changing needs of a growing country, however, had been known to cause slight turbulence in our return flight. Therefore, in the event that we experience any threat to ourselves and our posterity any one of the 26 amendments, will drop from the overhead compartments to ensure our domestic tranquility.

The amendment process is not the only way we as citizens can participate in our government. What we have witnessed today should force us out of complacency and self-centeredness and put us in touch with a bigger reality. Robert Kennedy made it popular, but George Bernard Shaw said it long ago: "Some people see things as they are and ask

'Why?' I prefer to see things as they might be, and ask 'Why not?'" That is what the framers of our constitution had in mind so long ago. Our participation in that process in the 21st Century is essential to ensure that the Constitution continues to withstand the many and varied assaults from those who criticize it, misinterpret it, or challenge it.

We can begin participating in small ways such as reading a daily newspaper or weekly newsmagazine. What we will begin to notice is that it will become a habit, and we will start participating in bigger things as writing letters to public officials, investigating the qualifications of political candidates, exercising our right to vote, and attending meetings where important local, regional, and national issues are being discussed and deliberated. So you see, even in little ways, we must take a more active role in the government—that, time travelers, is the real journey!

Our Founding Fathers, in the words of Justice Hugo Black, "... dreamed of a country where the mind and spirit of man would be free; where there would be no limits to inquiry; where men would be free to explore the unknown and to challenge the most deeply rooted beliefs and principles..."

Today, on flight U.S. 1-7-8-7, we have traveled back in time to the formation of The Constitution of the United States. Our itinerary included a basic knowledge and understanding of the constitution; an appeal to engage in our constitutional rights responsibly; and finally, a call to participate in our government.

Here in the 21st Century, the flight crew tells me that we have been cleared for landing. We have people on hand waiting to assist you in your efforts to continue the good work of our Founding Fathers. Remember what you have experienced today is much more than a fantastic journey in to the past, it is a reminder of your responsibility for the future.

TRIBUTE TO JANET C. WOLF

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Janet C. Wolf, who retires on June 1, 2002 after serving as Project Director of the National Park Service's New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route since its inception in 1988.

A new idea for the National Park Service, instead of using traditional ownership, the Trail supports resource protection and awareness by linking destinations owned and managed by others through a series of interpretive theme trails: Maritime History, Coastal Habitats, Wildlife Migration, Historic Settlements, and Relaxation and Inspiration. Ms. Wolf shepherded this historic project from concept to reality.

New Jersey's Coastal Heritage Trail includes portions of eight counties and six congressional districts. Almost 70 destinations, welcome centers and local information centers have been designated to date, with two additional themes under development. Janet's experience, determination and creativity enabled the partnerships to prosper. She also worked on developments for the Pinelands National Reserve and two Wild and Scenic Rivers in southern New Jersey.

After 34 years of service with the National Park Service, half of which has been devoted

to the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, Janet retires with the gratitude of the community for her commitment to the implementation of one of our state's most treasured resources, our Coastal Heritage Trail.

TRIBUTE TO MARY KONRAD

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Mary Konrad for her philanthropic deeds to this country and to her community.

Mary was one of the first women in her era to leave home to attend college. While enrolled at University of Illinois, she worked for a local doctor to pay her way through school. When World War II started, Mary decided she would help the war effort by working in a defense plant making bombs. Her work entailed lifting shells several hours a day. She finished college and graduated with a degree in sociology.

Following graduation, Mary moved out west and settled in California, becoming a social worker for the Red Cross. Her successful job ethics and determination earned her the "Red Cross Social Worker of the Year" award. After moving back to Chicago, she continued devoting her time to the Red Cross on weekends.

After raising two fine children, she and her husband moved to my district in Clearwater, Florida where she became active in a number of philanthropic ventures. She helped fund and start the program "Children in the 'D'Zone" for diabetic children at Morton Plant Hospital. She knew first-hand the trials and tribulations of raising a diabetic child and wanted to help others. In addition to this venture, she has supported many other programs at Morton Plant Hospital.

At Christmas, Mary helps fund the City of Clearwater's "Christmas Cheer Program" by providing all of the bicycles, helmets and locks for the needy children in the inner-city core. Supporting the arts and introducing children to the joys of the theater is another way she shows her love for those most vulnerable. Each year, Mary provides several scholarships to gifted students. Her support gives needy students an opportunity to attend performances during the year and summer programs at the Performing Arts Center at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Finally, Mary's newest love is the Clearwater AHEPA Home for which she and her husband are dedicating a Hellenic Cultural Library.

It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her today for her long and distinguished record in community service and for her tireless efforts to improve the lives of so many children.

HONORING EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that "everyone can be great because anyone can serve."